Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for use in a wireless network comprising a plurality of user devices adapted for communication with at least one access point device, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating a test of a communication link between at least one of the user devices and the access point device; and

generating, based at least in part on a result of the test, an instruction displayable to a user associated with a given one of the user devices, the instruction being indicative of a location at which the given user device is expected to obtain a particular level of data throughput performance.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the test comprises a test of a communication link between the given user device and the access point device.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the test comprises a test of a communication link between one of the user devices, other than the given user device, and the access point device.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the location comprises a location at which the given user device is expected to obtain a maximum achievable level of data throughput performance.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the given user device is at a current location, and the instruction is indicative of another location associated with an improved level of data throughput performance relative to that of the current location.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the generated instruction is displayable on a display screen of the user device.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the generated instruction is displayable on a display screen that is not part of the user device.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the test comprises a test of at least one of an uplink communication channel between the user device and the access point device and a downlink communication channel between the user device and the access point device.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the test is initiated in conjunction with access to a server connected to the access point via a network.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the test comprises a test sequence involving the transmission of a plurality of known packets at different bit rates between the at least one user device and the access point device.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the test sequence is initiated by the at least one user device, and the packets are transmitted to the access point device and returned from the access point device to the at least one user device.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the test sequence is initiated by the access point device, and the packets are transmitted from the access point device to the at least one user device.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the generating step utilizes information derived from a global positioning system (GPS) in determining the location at which the given user device is expected to obtain a particular level of data throughput performance.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the generated instruction comprises an indication of a particular area within a given facility.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the generated instruction comprises an indication of a particular seating location in a group of seating locations within a given facility.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the user device is compatible with at least one of the 802.11a standard, the 802.11b standard and the 802.11g standard.

17. An apparatus for use in a wireless network including a plurality of user devices adaptable for communication with at least one access point device, the apparatus comprising:

a processing device having a processor coupled to a memory, the processing device comprising at least one of a user device and an access point device of the wireless network;

wherein the processing device is configurable to initiate a test of a communication link associated with at least one of the user devices, and to generate, based at least in part on a result of the test, an instruction displayable to a user associated with a given one of the user devices, the instruction being indicative of a location at which the given user device is expected to obtain a particular level of data throughput performance.

18. A communication system comprising:

a wireless network including a plurality of user devices adaptable for communication with at least one access point device;

wherein a test of a communication link between at least one of the user devices and the access point device is initiated, and, based at least in part on a result of the test, an instruction displayable to a user associated with a given one of the user devices is generated, the instruction being indicative of a location at which the given user device is expected to obtain a particular level of data throughput performance.

19. An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium storing one or more software programs for use in a wireless network comprising a plurality of user devices

adapted for communication with at least one access point device, wherein the one or more programs when executed implement the steps of:

initiating a test of a communication link between at least one of the user devices and the access point device; and

generating, based at least in part on a result of the test, an instruction displayable to a user associated with a given one of the user devices, the instruction being indicative of a location at which the given user device is expected to obtain a particular level of data throughput performance.

20. A method for use in a wireless network comprising a plurality of user devices adapted for communication with at least one access point device, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating a test of a communication link between a user device at a current location and an access point device; and

generating, based at least in part on a result of the test, an instruction displayable to a user associated with the user device, the instruction being indicative of another location associated with an improved level of data throughput performance relative to that of the current location.